

From: John Zachary
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Comment about the MS case

As a computer scientist, a long-time (15 years) computer user, and a tax payer, I am severely disappointed in the proposed settlement with MS. The DoJ has dropped the ball in instituting real change. MS has repeatedly demonstrated the following: they do not care about about innovation, they will not deal fairly with customers, they will not deal fairly with business partners, and they will not deal fairly with competitors. In a time where virtually all software related companies are reporting poor earnings, it is not coincidence or superior ability that enables Microsoft to post good financial results. It is their monopolistic position that does.

I have been developing software for over 10 years. I have tried in earnest to support non-Microsoft platforms. This choice was based on the need for heterogeneity in the software landscape and the fact that most all other software platforms are technically superior to most Microsoft software products. It is a shame to see Microsoft dominate the industry to the point of squelching out technically superior alternatives, mostly due to their hyper-aggressive business tactics. With Linux and the set of BSD operating systems (e.g., FreeBSD), I am hopeful that some headway can be made against the Redmond juggernaut. Unfortunately, NeXTstep, OS/2, BeOS, and others could not, and the software industry is worse for it.

It is apparent that the U.S. Government will not deal with Microsoft as a monopoly in the same way that other monopolies have been dealt with (Exxon, IBM, AT&T). This is a disservice and I implore you to reconsider the settlement in its current form.

Microsoft will not single-handedly alter economic cycles. But with your help, they can single-handedly stifle innovation to the point of severely retarding the software industry.

Respectfully,

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